U.S. Outlays on LBJ, JFK Properties Listed

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The Secret Service has reported that government-financed improvements were made at 10 compounds used by the late Presidents Lyndon B. Johnson and John F. Kennedy, but it gave scarcely any cost figures.

In a report to Rep. Andrew J. Hinshaw (R-Calif.), the agency said it directed the installation of lighting and communications systems, guard booths, fire detection devices and anti-intrusion alarms at five locations each for Mr. Johnson and Mr. Kennedy.

Explaining the lack of cost figures, the report said:

"In all cases of former Presidents' compounds, there are limited documents of work requests from the Secret Service to other federal agencies because so many arrangements were verbal."

However, while expenditures were not given, the improvements listed by the Secret Service for the Johnson and Kennedy compounds appeared to be far fewer than those undertaken at the California and Florida estates of President Nixon.

Implicitly taking note of criticism that has surrounded the government's expenditure of nearly $10 million on the Nixon properties, the Secret Service said six factors have occurred in the last decade that would explain increased outlays for presidential security.

It listed these as:

- The assassination of President Kennedy, which led to increased manpower, equipment and funds for the Secret Service.
- The growth of the agency from a "bodyguard philosophy" to an "integrated security service."
- Changes in the "state of the art" in security equipment and special devices.
- A change in public attitude regarding "safety of the President and related criminal acts."
- Formation and growth of the agency's technical security division which handles specialized security equipment.
- Passage of a new federal law in 1968 authorizing the Secret Service to request "any necessary work or support from other federal agencies."

Hinshaw said he asked for details of this security work so that the public may "judge in historical context the measures we have taken and the monies our government has spent to protect the lives of our Presidents."

Hinshaw, a member of a House Government Operations Sub-committee that is studying improvements on Mr. Nixon's homes, said he believed such work was "necessary and proper." He is the former assessor of Orange County, where the Western White House is located.

Hinshaw said the General Services Administration is compiling additional data on security work done for former Presidents, and that he hoped to receive this soon.

The only cost figures given by the Secret Service on either the Johnson or Kennedy compounds dealt with Mr. Johnson's LBJ Ranch at Johnson City, Tex., and an office he used in Austin.

The agency said $53,655 in federal funds was spent at the LBJ Ranch from the time Mr. Johnson left office in January, 1969, until his death early this year. It said this included the cost of new fire detection alarms, electric gates and a closed-circuit television system. All but $6,000 of the equipment is recoverable, the report said.

At Mr. Johnson' office in Austin, $10,625 was spent during his presidency for technical security equipment, the agency said.

Without giving costs, the Secret Service said the following government work was done on its behalf at the LBJ Ranch during Mr. Johnson's term in office:

"Permanent security at his compound included a fire detection system, a security communications system, an emergency lighting system and guard booths on outer perimeters. At this time it has not been determined who paid for these items.

"One specialized security device was installed in 1968 which was paid for by Secret Service. Cost is reflected in "compounds today" data (the $53,655 figure). The command post on this compound changed locations three times —twice it was in existing buildings and once in a trailer."

Special security devices were also installed at three other locations frequented by Mr. Johnson. The agency listed these as the Haywood Ranch and boathouse near Johnsn City, Brooks Army Johnson City, Brooks Army television station KTBC in

In a separate report released by Hinshaw, the Department of Defense said $253,400 was spent by the Air Force for air traffic control at Mr. Johnson's Texas ranch. An additional $800 was spent on "radio maintenance" since 1969.

The report did not mention who constructed a runway at the ranch used by government aircraft.

At Hyannisport, Mass., the following work was performed during the Kennedy presidency, the Secret Service said:

"This compound had a security lighting system, a security communications system, a trailer-command post with landscaping to obscure it, barriers to public roadway and six guard booths. The lighting was installed without charge by a local electrical firm."

At the Kennedy compound in Palm Beach, Fla., the Secret Service reported:

"The security installations at this location consisted of a command post in a trailer, shrubbery and trees to camouflage it and a hookup to the city sewage system. A separate meter was installed for power used on security lights and Secret Service installations.

"An anti-intrusion alarm and a security communications system were also installed at this compound. The Secret Service requested repainting of the neighbors' dock used by the Secret Service and President. This cost, as others above, were paid by the Office of the Naval Aide, the White House."

In addition, the Defense Department said it spent $96,996 to build a fall-out shelter on Peanut Island near Palm Beach.

Similar work on a smaller scale was performed at Mr. Kennedy's Squaw Island retreat near Hyannisport, and at his homes near Middleburg and Atoka, Va., the Secret Service said.

Discussing work performed for the late Presidents Eisenhower, Truman and Roosevelt, the Secret Service said the principal projects included alarm systems and lighting.